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In earnest hope to maintain the high favour it has been fortunate enough to win, the many and great improvements have been adopted which this present number introduces to the subscribers.

It has been enlarged from sixteen to thirty-two pages, without any increase of price. But we should observe, that the standard size will be twenty-four pages, which will be increased to thirty-two pages whenever the press of matter requires it. We desire it to be understood that we engage only for twenty-four pages, being eight pages more than the former size; when it is extended to thirty-two pages, it will be by way of present to the subscribers. But we have little doubt that this extension will be very frequent.

In the general plan of THE CRITIC we have found little to alter, for that appears to have received the unanimous approval of its friends from the commencement.

But we must take this opportunity of erasing a misunderstanding occasioned by its title of THE CRITIC. Many have supposed from this that its main purpose was pure criticism; that it was to be a little *Edinburgh* or *Quarterly*, and that its articles ought to be essays upon books. But such is very far from our design, and if intended it would have been impracticable. THE CRITIC is, in truth, nothing more than a *Literary Journal*; that is, it is its purpose to collect information relative to the Literature and Art of the time, so that its readers may form a pretty accurate notion of their progress. As the intelligence of primary interest, it notices new books, music, and works of art, but not by way of elaborate criticism, which can only be accomplished by periodicals of large size and infrequent issue, but by giving such interesting accounts of books,—of their subjects, their style, their merits and defects, illustrated by extracts having intrinsic value and interest,—as may enable the reader, who wants time or inclination to inspect the various new publications for himself, to enjoy the opportunity of learning something about all of them, and thus to select those with which, from the account here given of them, he may desire to make more intimate acquaintance. It would be impossible formally to criticize a dozen volumes within the compass of even thirty-two of our ample pages, and indeed it is not the purpose of THE CRITIC: nor would it so please the subscribers as the present plan of presenting a lively account of books as they appear,—just such as one who had read them would give to an inquiring friend,—accompanied with extracts selected with a view to the instruction or amusement of the reader.

It is proposed in future to pay special attention to the foreign reviews, and introduce to the English reader translations of some of the best of their notices of the books of their own country.

In conclusion, we repeat to our new subscribers the request we have before preferred to our old ones, that they will introduce THE CRITIC to their friends, and back it with a recommendation. In a few days the Prospectus and List of Subscribers will be ready for circulation, and they could not better serve it or more effectively second a recommendation, than by exhibiting this magnificent roll of names, and asking if that of their friend might be added to it.

To the Booksellers and Libraries by whom THE CRITIC is so extensively supported, we need only prefer this request—that they will make a point of shewing it to their customers, and asking permission to place their names on the List of Subscribers.

Again we repeat, that THE CRITIC is a thoroughly independent publication;—that whatever its increasing circulation and advertisements may yield will be applied to its improvement, and that it is in the power of its friends now, by a little exertion, to enable it efficiently to carry out its great ultimate design.